

Winter 2022

# Historical Journal



**LITITZ HISTORICAL FOUNDATION**

P.O. Box 65 145 E. Main Street, Lititz, PA 17543

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## Adam E. Showers—Spanish-American War Veteran

*Charlene Van Brookhoven*

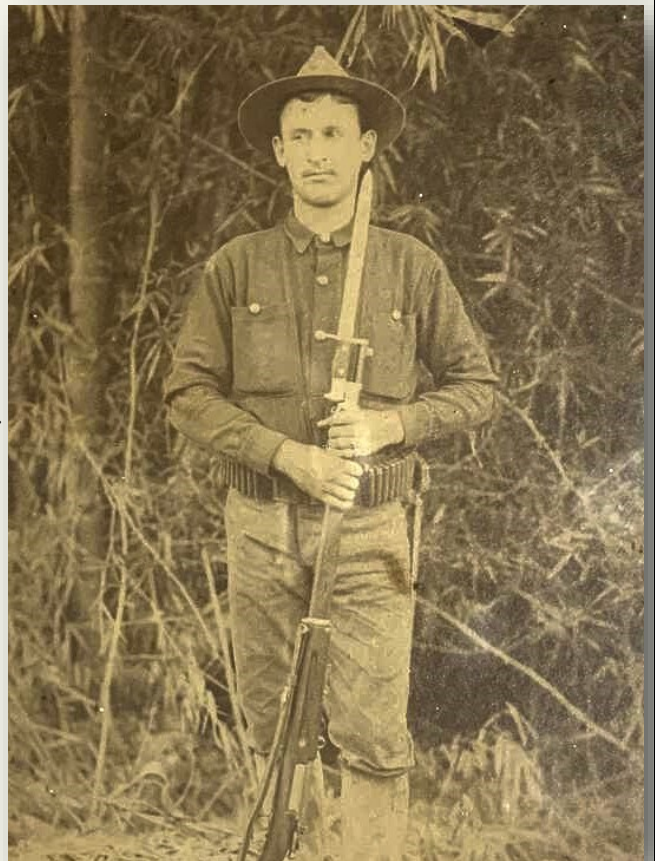
The year 1898 saw the Spanish-American War between the United States and Spain. The cause of this short-lived war was to support the independence of Cuba over the country of Spain and also to protect US business interests with Cuba.

On April 25, 1898, war was declared, and in order to help supply soldiers for the impending conflict, a recruiting office was opened April 15 in the city of Lancaster. Adam E. Showers of Lititz was one of the first men to enlist. He was sent to the Presidio in San Francisco, a military post, and trained to become a soldier.

He then was shipped to the Philippines. Because this war only lasted eight months, Mr. Showers was shipped to Northern China to help during the Boxer Rebellion, another short-lived conflict. In 1902 he returned to Lititz and with his wife Mary Kling Showers, began their family of ten children.

Adam Showers opened a small eatery in the basement of the then Lititz Springs Hotel. Competition with the hotel restaurant made it difficult to have a successful business so in 1910 he relocated to Penn Township and became a farmer. Eventually he moved his family to the town of Lititz and worked at The Animal Trap Company.

In order to remember a man who willingly enlisted in the military in 1898 and to help preserve the integrity of his country, Adam's family has lovingly donated a personal collection of his years served.



*Above: Adam Showers in uniform. Story concluded on page 5 inside.*

## Thank You Karen

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Members of the Lititz Historical Foundation are saddened by the July death of Karen Genevish, a true friend of the foundation.

For years Karen was instrumental in so many accomplishments within the success of LHF. Her knowledge of all aspects of gardening helped in the development of the beautiful Mary Oehme Gardens. Karen knew what plants went together for color, size and season and planted them accordingly.

She also knew when a shrub or vine needed a little extra attention and took care of their needs. The turn of the century heart-shaped fish pond in the rear of the gardens was one of Karen's favorite projects. Most of all, she knew pesky weeds from returning perennials in the springtime!

Karen Genevish was the ultimate "hostess with the mostest" when refreshments were called for at LHF functions.



She not only supplied the snacks and drinks, but she went the extra mile and home-baked brownies and cookies for many of the events. She also spent endless hours helping decorate the inside and outside of the foundation's buildings—especially during the autumn and Christmas seasons.

When it was time to elect a secretary for the board of LHF, Karen stepped forward and willingly took on the position.

There wasn't a single need in both of the museum buildings and grounds that were left undone if Karen knew about them.

She left a huge void not only on the grounds and buildings of The Lititz Historical Foundation but also in the hearts of all who had the pleasure of working with her.



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HISTORICAL JOURNAL

## Program to Focus on History of Conestoga River

Join us at the Lititz Public Library on Saturday, January 28th at 1:30pm for a free community presentation. We will be welcoming local historian and author Donald Kautz.

This presentation takes a brief stroll through the history along the Conestoga River. We will consider the historic conditions along the Conestoga, and we will look at the effects that settlement of the county has had on the river and what steps can be taken to ensure that the generations to come are able to enjoy this natural beauty.

This program is free, but registration is required. Signups begin January 13th at 9am. To register beginning on that day, call the Lititz Library at 717-626-2255.

The Conestoga River meanders for sixty miles through the fertile farmlands of Lancaster County. From early Native American inhabitants to the European settlers who made the Conestoga Valley their home, the river has provided sustenance and transportation for generations. Victorian era resorts and hotels were built along the river, providing new recreational activities as steam power drove innovative forms of transportation and waterpower.

As the region developed and the population grew, the river paid a heavy price in increased pollution from sewage runoff and industry. Conservation efforts toward the end of the twentieth century through the present day have restored the river's beauty and recreational reputation. Join author and photographer Donald Kautz as he takes a journey on the historic waters of the Conestoga River.

Copies of Kautz's book "The Conestoga River A History" will also be on hand for purchase. Please bring cash.



## *The* CONESTOGA RIVER *A History*



*Left: Author Donald Kautz. Above: Kautz will be selling and signing his book "The Conestoga River A History" on January 28th at the Lititz Public Library.*

## Assistant Treasurer Board Position Sought

The Lititz Historical Foundation has an opening for an Assistant Treasurer to work with the Treasurer on bookkeeping and general financial oversight of the Foundation. This will involve assisting the Treasurer in performing the duties of the Treasurer in the Treasurer's absence and/or at other times when requested by the Treasurer or the President.

This Assistant Treasurer is one of five officers of the Foundation. These are all unpaid volunteers. Officers are also on the Board of Directors. In addition to these five there are seven other board members. The board meets at 7pm on the third Thursday of every month except December.

As an officer and board member, the Foundation is looking for someone who is excited about the broader opportunity to be part of a team that strives to fulfill the Foundation's mission. The mission is:

- To preserve, interpret, and promote the history of Lititz, Pennsylvania, and the surrounding areas in Lancaster County; to educate residents and visitors about the history of Lititz; and to provide opportunities to the public for personal and scholarly research in family history and the general history of the Lititz area.

For more details, please email David Orr (the Treasurer) at [djohlftreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:djohlftreasurer@gmail.com).

## What an EXTRAORDINARY Day!

WOW! What a day the Extra Give on November 18th!! Thanks to everyone who supported us yesterday during the 2022 Extra Give!

We received a total of \$7,205 through 55 donors.

We just wanted to say THANK YOU once again for all of those who donated to this amazing day!



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*Adam E. Showers (Continued from page 1):*

Highlighted in the parlor of the Lititz Historical Foundation museum is Mr. Showers' full uniform, photos of him during the conflict; several medals he earned as a soldier; a photo of Mr. and Mrs. Showers on their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary; and a group photo of the "coffee committee" of the Moravian Church including Mr. Showers.

This collection, donated by the third generation of the Showers family, is a history of one Lititz man and how he served his country in the Spanish-American War and Boxer Rebellion. This Lititz family history will be preserved through the safekeeping at the Lititz Historical Foundation.



*Above: Two medals earned by Showers. Above center: The hat worn by Showers in the Spanish-American War.*



*The "905" steam engine train is seen in this early Lititz image, crossing the tracks and heading west along what is now North Water Street in Lititz.*





## DID YOU KNOW...?



On Monday December 22, 1913, a Winton automobile carrying Harry and Martin Eby was struck by a morning Reading and Columbia passenger train along North Broad Street in downtown Lititz.

Despite a few minor bruises, both passengers survived.

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*Historical Journal*  
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